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DIRECTORATE OF
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Canada-NATO: Defense Minister Cadieux yesterday disclosed the Canadian cabinet's plans for reducing Canada's NATO forces from the current manpower level of 10,000 to 3,500 by 1972.

In a meeting with Secretary Laird, Cadieux fully outlined the Canadian plan, which he termed "non-negotiable"--except perhaps for the timing of the beginning of the withdrawal process. Essentially, the plan calls for a withdrawal from Europe of the entire Canadian Mechanized Army Brigade of about 6,000 men by the early 1970s, the withdrawal by 1972 of its four strike/attack squadrons, leaving only two reconnaissance and one helicopter squadron, and the removal of the Canadian aircraft carrier from SACLANT.

The plans call for Ottawa's future commitment to the Alliance to be based on a new airmobile force, to be organized while the withdrawal is under way. There will be no reduction in the dollar figures of the Canadian defense budget over the next three years, but, assuming a five-percent annual inflation in defense costs, there will be a budgetary reduction of this size in real terms from year to year. The withdrawal of the carrier from SACLANT will be "offset" by the launching of new supply ships and the future assignment of additional destroyers.

The cabinet's plans for such a sizable reduction of troops are likely to arouse protests from some members of the Alliance, who had expected the Canadians to cut their forces by no more than half. Cadieux hinted, however, that future NATO decisions in favor of more emphasis on conventional warfare could be used to persuade the Canadian cabinet to leave two or three squadrons of combat aircraft in Europe.

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British Honduras: The government of Premier Price has resisted British efforts to delay independence until Guatemala's claim to the area can be satisfied. British Assistant Under Secretary Morgan spent all last week trying to get agreement on concessions that might be offered to Guatemala, but Price still insists that any accommodation with Guatemala must be negotiated by an independent government.

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